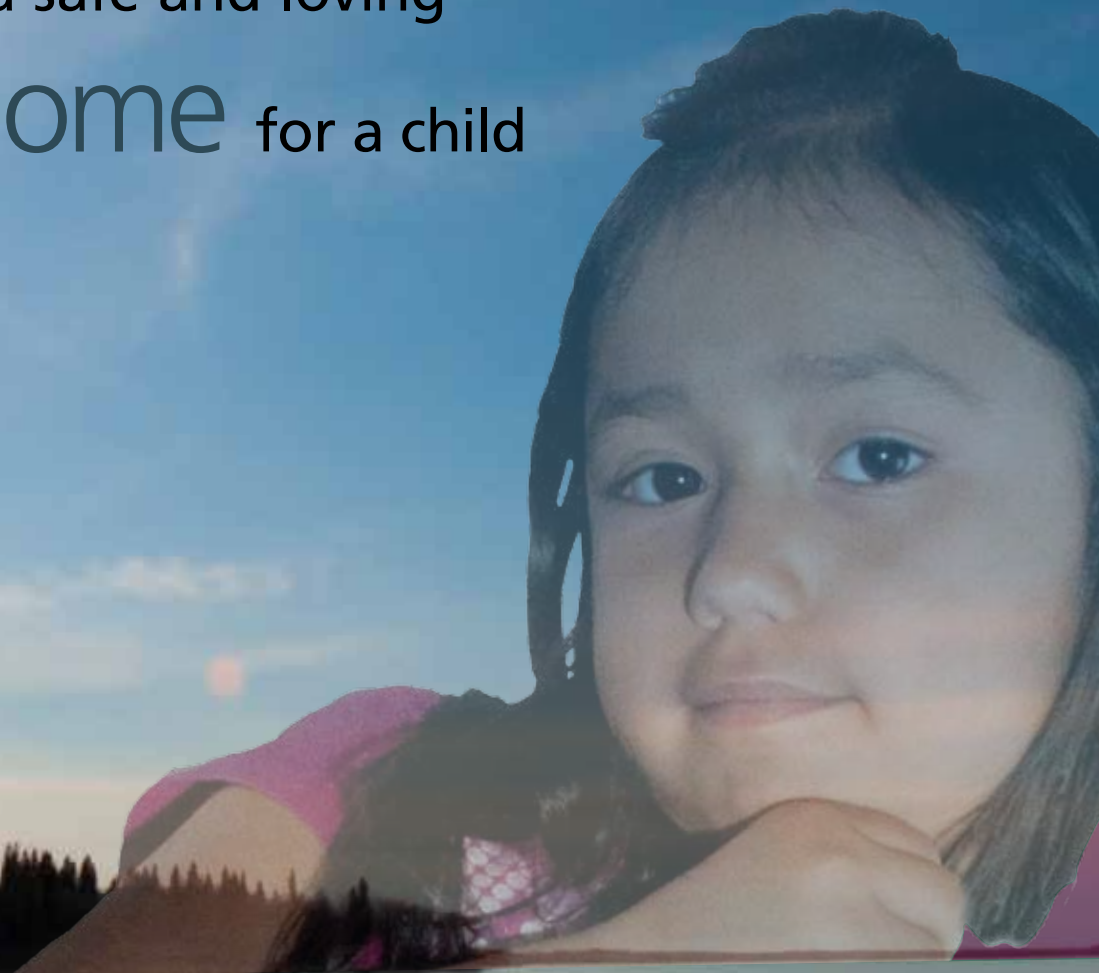




# Build a safe and loving home for a child

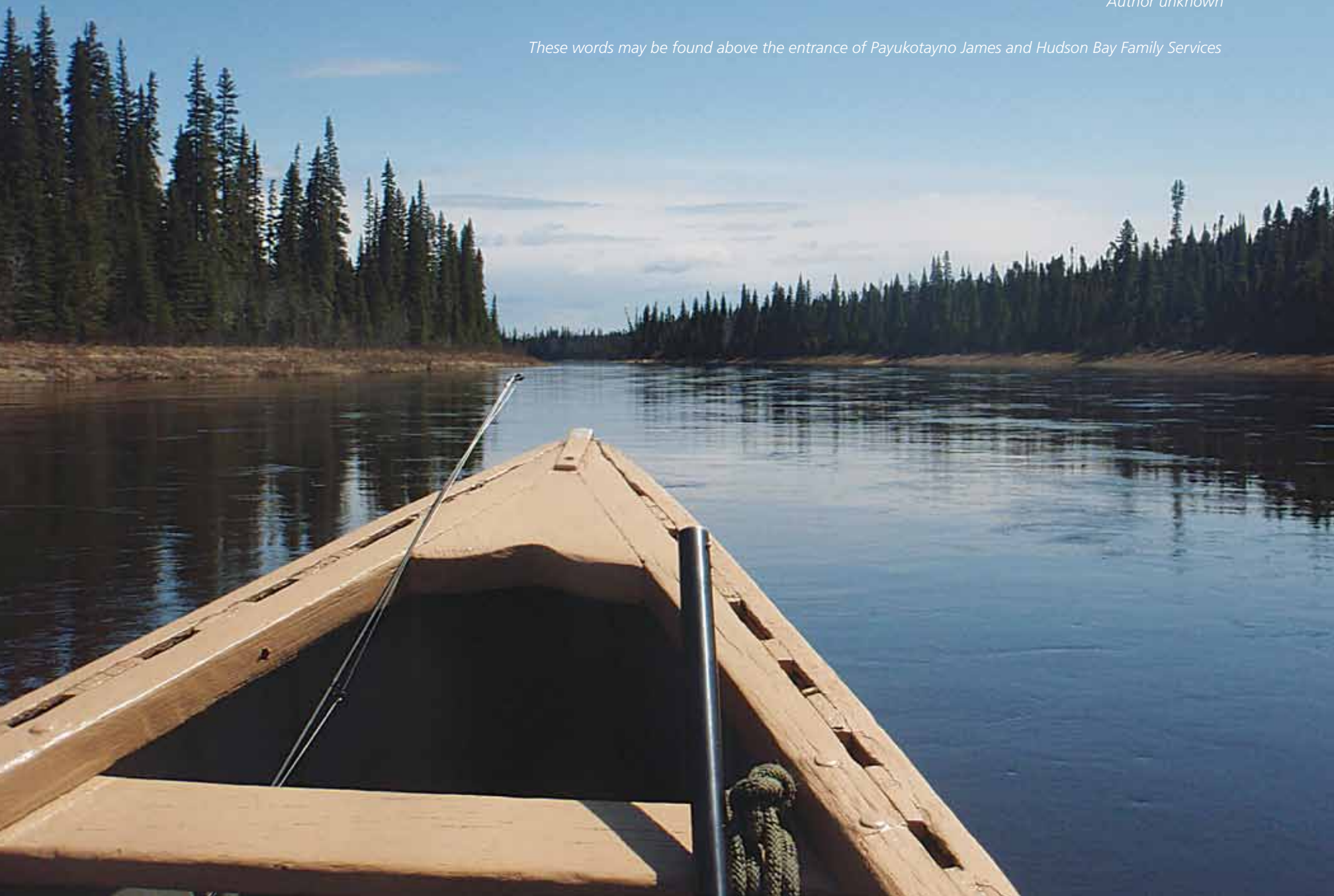
Keeping our children close to home



“Those privileged to touch the lives of children should constantly be aware that their impact on the single child will affect a multitude of others a thousand years from now.”

*Author unknown*

*These words may be found above the entrance of Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Family Services*



# Housing Crisis

## No Space for Foster Children

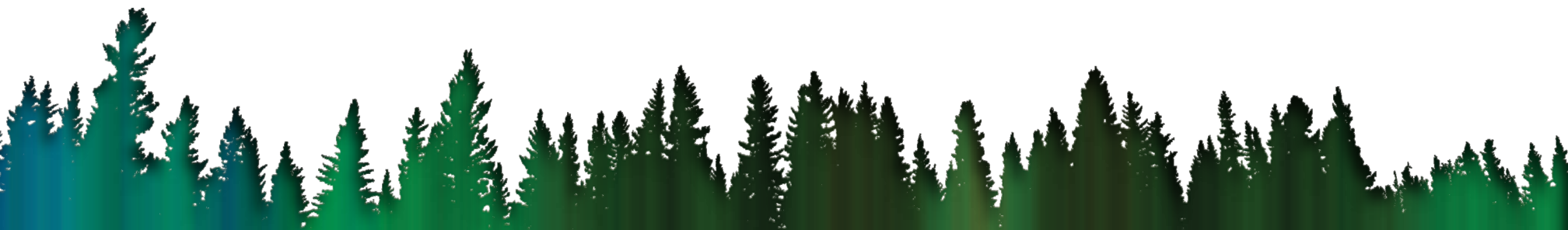
In native communities throughout Cochrane District in Ontario's north, housing shortages, sub-standard housing and crowding have hit a crisis level.

The overcrowding means that when children come to be placed in foster care, many of them cannot stay in their communities — willing foster families simply cannot accommodate them in overcrowded homes.

Instead, children are being sent nearly 1,000 miles from home, to foster homes in southern Ontario. The trauma and devastation this separation is causing is shocking, and hard to contemplate.

But this situation can be improved, and with your help, there is a solution.

Payukotayno Housing Authority, in partnership with local agencies, businesses and individuals, has been created to provide solutions to the housing crisis for foster care. With moderate funds and resources, along with the local will that exists to care for children close to home, children currently in foster care miles away from their families will be able to move back into foster homes in their communities.



# Foster Children Far from Home

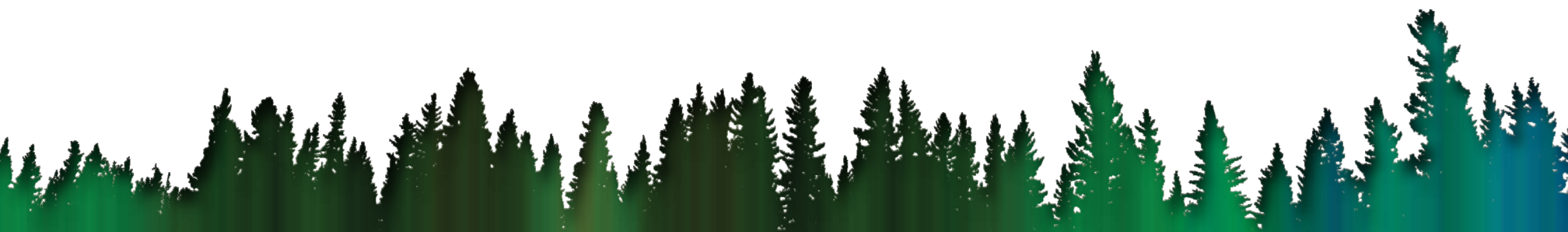
Children in foster care in native communities far outnumber their non-native counterparts. Of the 106 children currently in care in the Moosonee area, 56 of them have been displaced to southern communities, including Timmins, Sudbury and North Bay, and as far south as Huntsville, Toronto and St. Catharines.

Imagine the terror of a child, who must, for his own safety, be removed from his home into foster care, only then to be taken hundreds of miles away to a completely foreign place,

separated from his parents and siblings, other family members, friends, school or daycare and his community.

But this is the reality — rendered not by choice, but by necessity — an all-too-common practice in communities stretching from Moosonee on the southern tip of James Bay, to Peawanuk on the shore of Hudson Bay. Because adequate, safe housing for foster care is in such short supply, children must be removed from the town, village or reserve where their parents live, and are taken up to nearly 1,000 miles away. While the care they receive is safe and loving, they are denied so much that has become common-place and provides comfort.

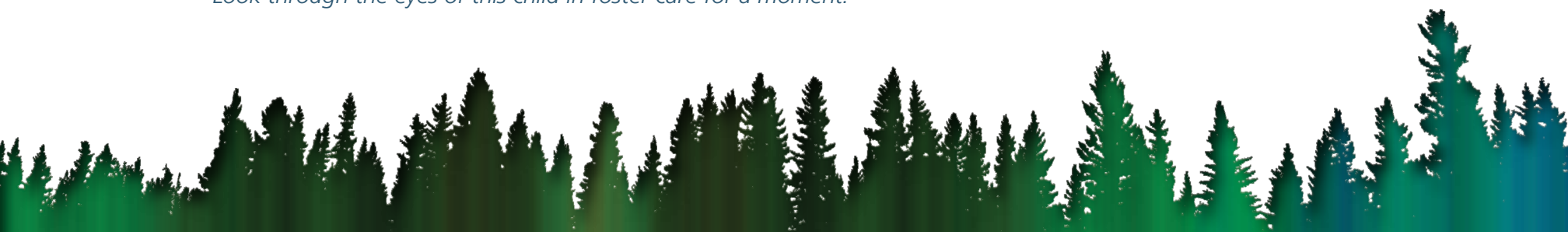
As much as possible, native children are placed in native foster homes. However, this can't always be the case. Often, children whose first language is Cree are often placed in homes where no one speaks their language . . . they are rendered isolated in every respect — by distance, by a language barrier, and by a cultural and spiritual divide.





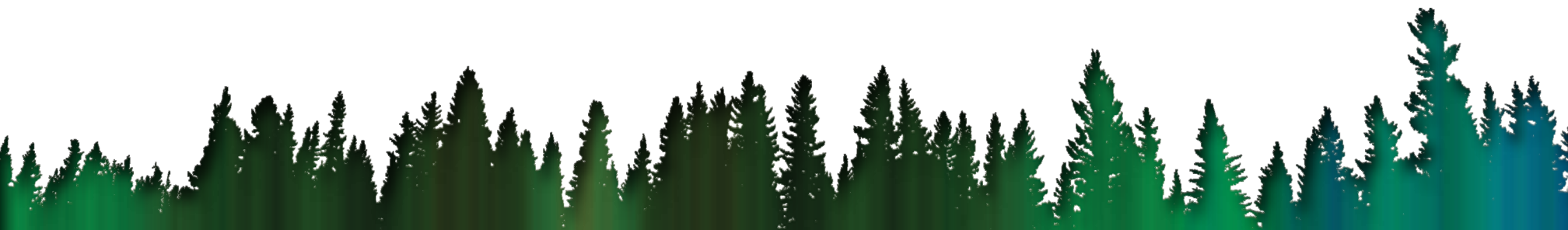


*Look through the eyes of this child in foster care for a moment.*



"One of the children in my case load has been away for two years, and while she and her mother are both ready to live together again, her mother's home doesn't meet care standards. The child asks me, when I visit, what it's like at home, if her friends still ask about her, and if the town is still the same."

*Rache Hughes, Child Care Worker, Moosonee*



# Families in Isolation Cannot Heal

Moving children into foster care miles from home is impractical, complex, costly and traumatizing.

Separated by huge distances, families face an uphill battle in terms of rehabilitation and healing. Coordinating care between the child's home community and the foster community in the south requires a complex web of organization and communication, which is cumbersome at best. Family therapy is virtually impossible under such conditions.

In order for parents and their child in foster care to visit, an application for funding must be submitted and approved. A return flight between a community such as Fort Albany and Toronto is \$2700 per person, limiting visits to only once or twice a year per family. It often takes a combination of air, rail and car travel to bring a parent and child together. Coupled with the long journey, families then have only a day or two at a time to visit their children. Support staff are also impacted by travel and time away from home.

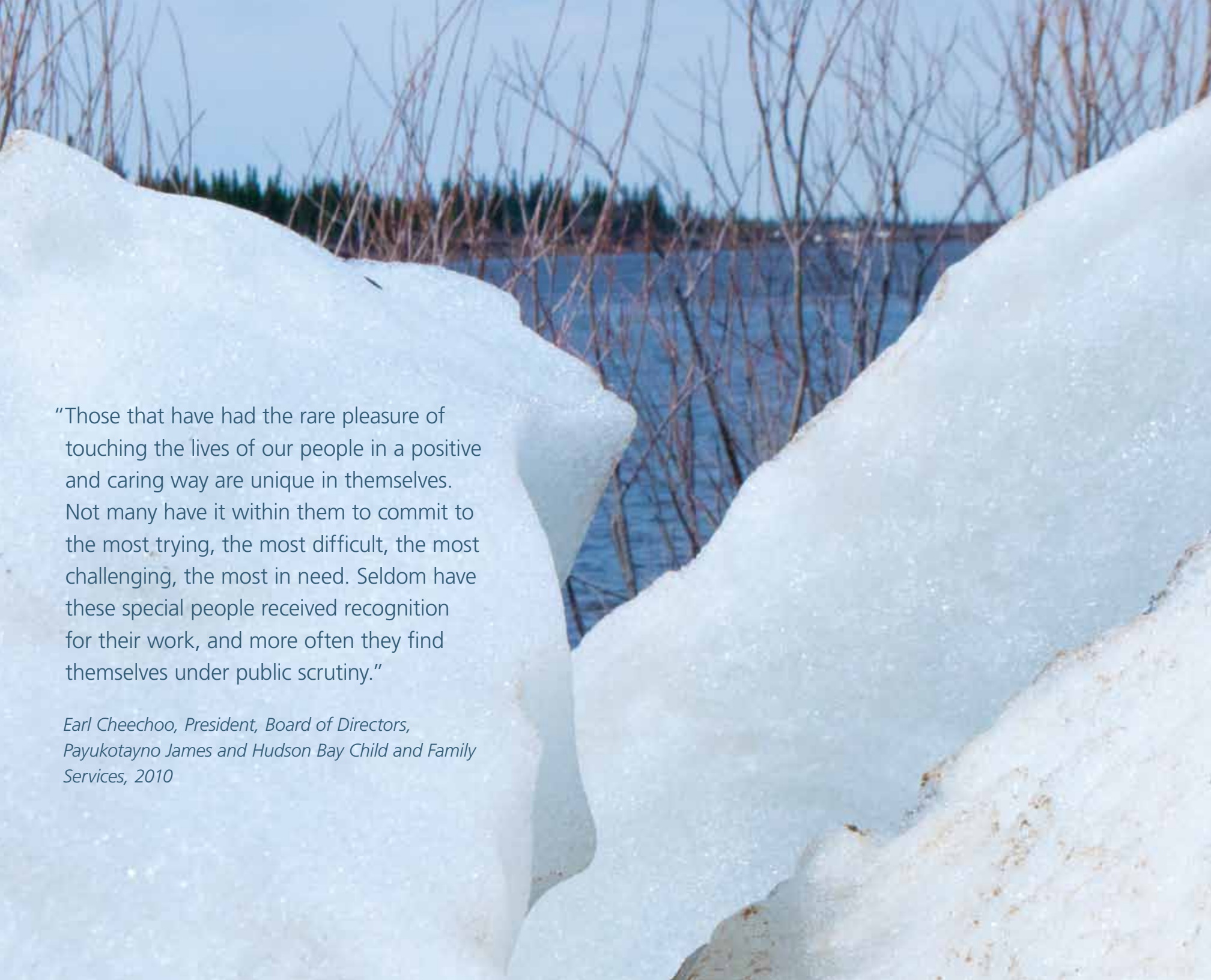
Foster children living away become homesick, and their behaviour is impacted significantly. They experience separation anxiety, sleep disturbances, attention-seeking behaviour and aggression. Parents suffer from guilt and depression, isolated from their children, and seeing little progress in family treatment. The ensuing emotional and spiritual anguish, for parent and child, is devastating.

*"Very young children often can't remember their parents between visits. When their parents come to see them, they hardly know them."*

*Sarah Walsh-Burse, Child Care Worker*





A photograph of a snowy landscape. In the foreground, there are large, white, snow-covered mounds. In the background, there is a body of water, possibly a lake or river, with bare, brown trees and a line of evergreen trees on the far shore under a clear blue sky.

“Those that have had the rare pleasure of touching the lives of our people in a positive and caring way are unique in themselves. Not many have it within them to commit to the most trying, the most difficult, the most challenging, the most in need. Seldom have these special people received recognition for their work, and more often they find themselves under public scrutiny.”

*Earl Cheechoo, President, Board of Directors,  
Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Child and Family  
Services, 2010*



# Housing Crisis

## Staff Shortages

It is a sad irony that when children do need to be moved into foster care, and willing families are ready to help, many cannot, because their homes are overcrowded or unsuitable.

There are current foster families in Moosonee and surrounding areas who are poised and ready to take more children into their care. Others are ready to become carers for the first time. Living in homes that are overcrowded or otherwise unsafe, however, prevents them from being able to do so.

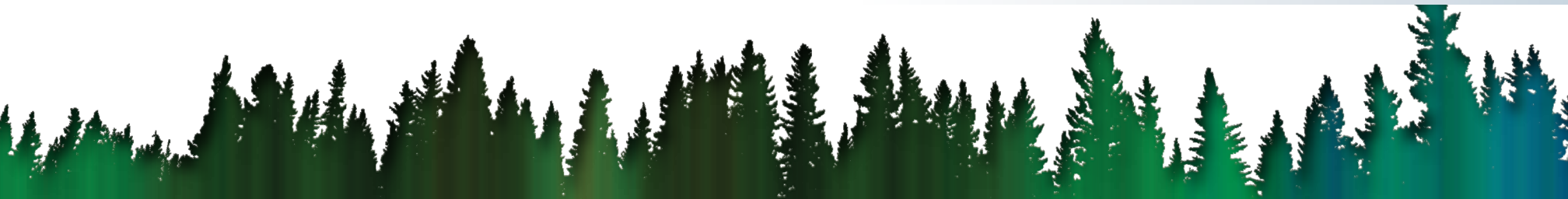
The housing crisis also has a negative impact on attaining child and family service staff. Qualified and enthusiastic candidates who have applied for positions as child care and child protection workers, therapists, social workers and other support positions, have had to turn down job offers because they could not find housing.

*Up to 15 people can be living in a home this small.*



*"In recent months, four highly-qualified staff had no option but to rescind their job offers, because they couldn't find housing in Moosonee."*

*Bernice Morrison, Human Resources Manager, Payukotayno*



# Partnership for Foster Care Housing



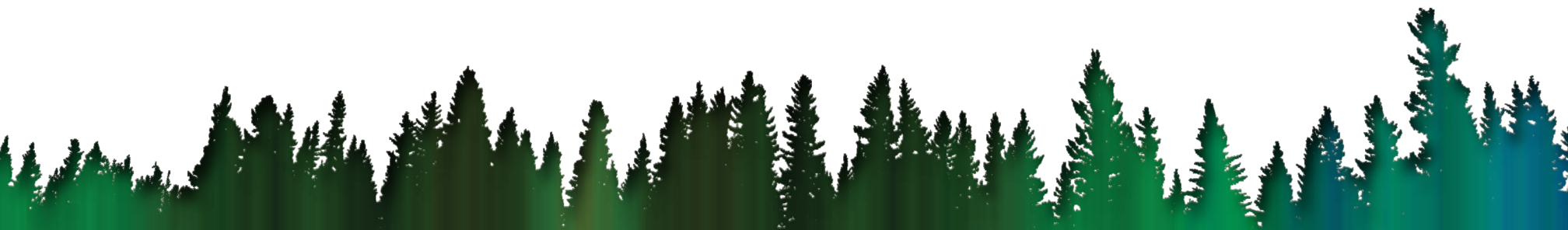
There is now great momentum to ensure that adequate housing is available, so that children in foster care can be repatriated, and never have to be sent far from home again. A strong partnership has come together in the Payukotayno district.

Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Child and Family Services (Payukotayno) is a native child welfare service, meeting the requirements of the Child and Family Services Act and taking into account the traditional aspects of the Cree People. It is a fully designated Children's Aid Society, committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the child, through the least intrusive approaches. Cultural and spiritual practices are observed and respected, and children and families are served in their first language.

Payukotayno serves with respect, dignity and care, and has been a trusted agency for 26 years. With the housing crisis severely hindering the

availability of local foster care, Payukotayno developed the Payukotayno Housing Authority. Engaging enterprising individuals, families, businesses and government agencies, Payukotayno Housing Authority's mission is to provide safe, adequate housing that meets the standards for foster care.

Payukotayno Housing Authority's first priority is to raise the necessary funds to provide rental housing in Moosonee, and then in native communities on the James and Hudson Bay coast where foster homes are needed most. Payukotayno Housing Authority will also assist in provision of housing for foster care support staff.



*"Stories have been shared about astounding accomplishments of children and families who sought assistance, and, moving beyond the despair, have come to make significant, positive changes in their lives. These stories prove that what we are doing is working."*

*Earl Cheechoo, Payukotayno James and Hudson Bay Child and Family Services*

Key Assets is an independent fostering agency that provides quality care in a family setting to children and young people. It is an international agency, which provides a highly effective and acclaimed fostering model, with an office now in Moosonee. Key Assets ensures a child-focused approach while also supporting the success of the foster carer through training, support and access to effective resources.

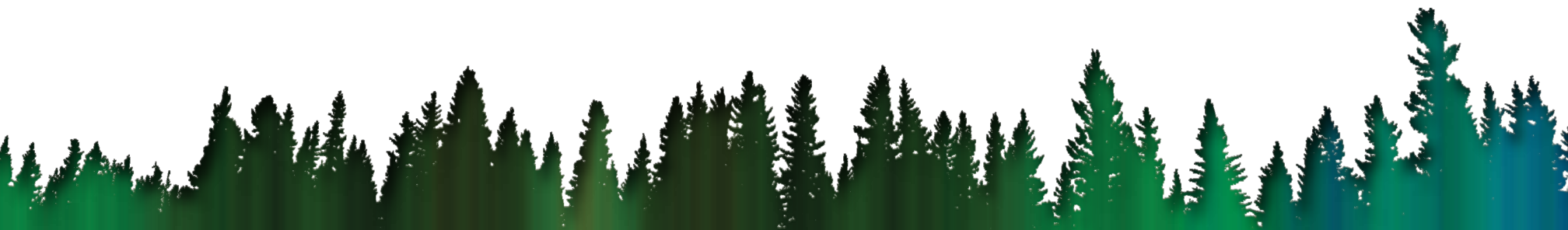
Collectively, these three agencies will ensure the wellbeing of native children and families, the best of foster care, and suitable, safe housing for foster families.





*"The Cree People are part of the land — it's what we're connected to, and whatever happens to the land, affects us. If we need some type of healing, we'll go out on the land and come back a better person. When you take that away from a child, it has a detrimental affect. It's as though part of their roots have been cut away — their identity has been ripped away from them."*

*Andrew Solomon, Grand Chief, Fort Albany Reserve,*



# Maintaining

## Culture, Dignity and a Way of Life

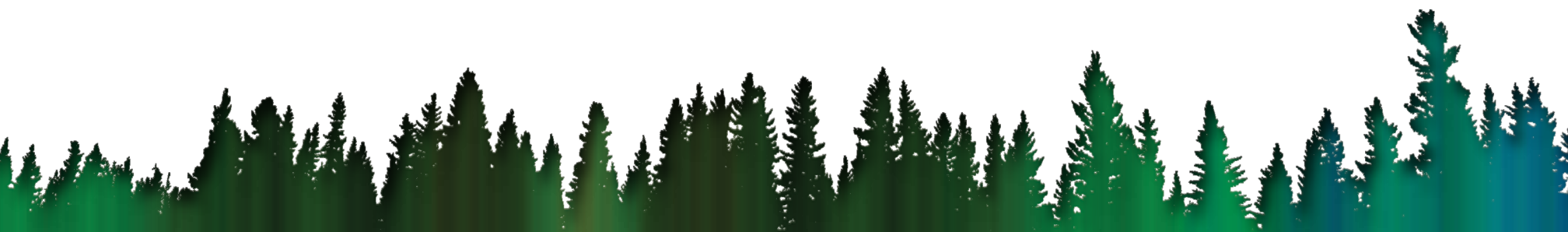
Countless studies and anecdotes of life in native communities point to children and youth achieving greater success and quality of life when they can maintain their ties to their culture, heritage and language. For children in foster care, many of whom have suffered trauma and anxiety, remaining connected to their culture and common practices, in the community they know, becomes even more important.



With foster children, parents and their families within the same area, parents can more readily visit with children, care workers can coordinate care more expediently, communication will be more immediate and effective, and families can rehabilitate together, with consistent care and support.

*"Taking a child or parent out of their community, their comfort zone, is akin to culture shock. Families can't rehabilitate under these circumstances; in fact, it causes more distress and trauma. Bringing families together will allow great healing to take place. This is what's best for families and foster children — we must act on this, now, to ensure the best possible degree of foster care and therapeutic healing for our people."*

*Pauline Murphy, Acting Executive Director, Key Assets*

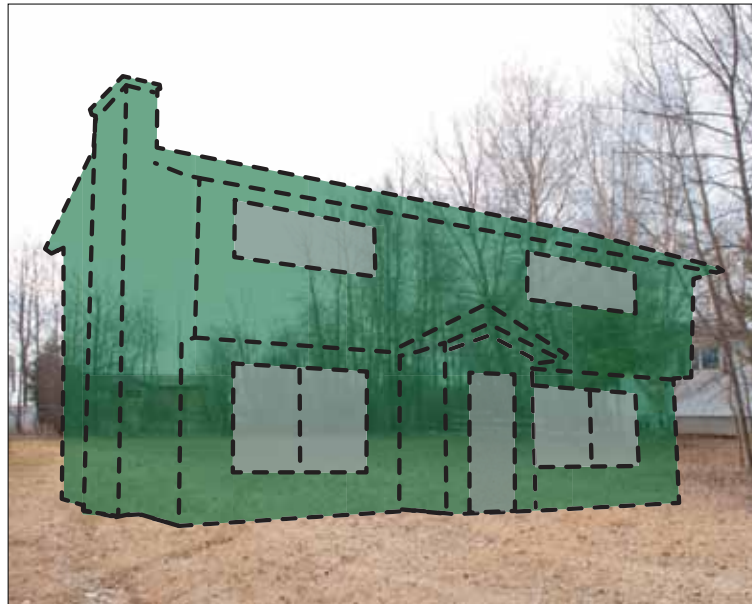


With Your Leadership

# Homes With Heart

Phase One of the project is to build or secure six homes in Moosonee, allowing six foster homes to open, six families to start fostering and up to 18 children to return into foster care close to home.

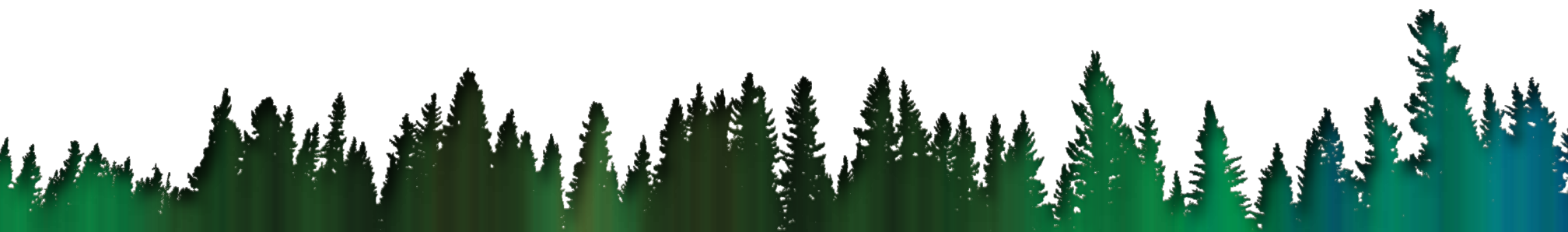
The cost of building a new single dwelling that would accommodate foster parents and up to four children is approximately \$250,000. Payukotayno Housing Authority is also investigating existing homes that could be readily upgraded and converted into foster homes, at a similar or lesser cost. Housing will become the property of the Payukotayno Housing Authority and will be provided as affordable rental housing to foster families.



The fundraising goal for the initial six homes is \$1.5 million.

You can have a significant impact on the life of a child and his or her family by investing in the Payukotayno Housing Authority project. Donations are tax-deductable. Donors may wish to discuss available naming opportunities. Be a leader in solving the housing crisis for foster care.

Break down the walls of isolation. Build a safe and loving home for a child. Keep our children close to home.





## Payukotayno Housing Authority Board of Directors

Earl Cheechoo, President – Moose Cree First Nation

Donna Glenesk, Vice-President – The Corporation of the Town of Moosonee

Christine Maybee, Treasurer – The Corporation of the Town of Moosonee

Victor Weapenicappo – Secretary – Mocrebec Council of the Cree Nation

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For further information and to discuss donor opportunities  
please contact:

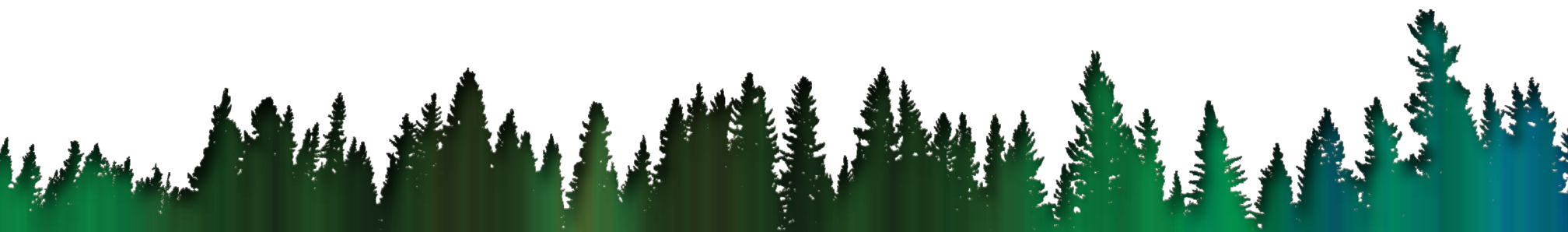
**Laurie Mark**

Email: [laurie.mark@payukotayno.ca](mailto:laurie.mark@payukotayno.ca)

Phone number: (705) 336-2229 Ext. 233

*"If you want to know what the future is  
going to look like, don't make the effort  
to study the future. Instead, get up, turn  
around, and look at your children."*

*Native Elder*





Keeping our children close to home



50 Bay Road, General Delivery, P.O. Box 189 Moosonee, Ontario P0L 1Y0  
Charitable Registration Number 10782 7461 RC 001